

U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources
Division

FSP
90-11-3-128/3

*Environmental Enforcement Section Telephone (202) 305-0439
P.O. Box 7611 Facsimile (202) 514-4180
Washington, DC 20044-7611*

THIS IS A COPY OF A DOCUMENT
PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE DURING THE NOVEMBER 2003
PRIVILEGE REVIEW OF THE BUNKER HILL /
COEUR D'ALENE CASE.

October 15, 2002

VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Robert Hopper, President
Placer Mining Corporation
dba New Bunker Hill Mining Corp.
P.O. Box 29
Kellogg, ID 83837

Re: Proposed Measures to Address Acid Mine Drainage;
Request for Meeting

Dear Mr. Hopper:

I want to thank you again for the hospitality you extended to my EPA colleagues and I during our visit to the Bunker Hill Mine last week. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to see first-hand all that you have accomplished in the mine.

As you know, EPA has proposed a series of measures designed to expand on-site storage capacity for, and reduce generation of, the acid mine drainage produced by the Bunker Hill Mine. In the short term, these measures will make possible a desperately needed overhaul of the facility treating Bunker Hill's mine drainage. In the absence of such an overhaul in the very near future, EPA is concerned that this treatment facility, which has been operating for nearly thirty years, poses a significant threat of partial or catastrophic failure. In the longer term, measures taken to reduce generation of acid drainage from the Bunker Hill Mine are protective of the environment and will significantly reduce the costs of treatment and facility maintenance.

Placer Mining Corporation, the owner and operator of the Bunker Hill Mine, is responsible for the treatment and proper disposition of all drainage from the mine. EPA would like to work cooperatively with Placer Mining Corporation to ensure that the proposed measures are implemented in a timely and cost-effective manner that avoids or minimizes any disruption to mining activities. To this end, we would like to meet with you and any other representatives of Placer Mining Corporation, as appropriate, to discuss how we can best proceed on a cooperative basis. Because EPA is very concerned about the risk to public health and the environment posed by the deteriorated state of the

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water treatment facility, I ask that you contact me as soon as possible, and not later than October 25, 2002. I have enclosed my card containing all my contact information.
Thanks, again, for your courtesy last week.

Sincerely,

Frederick S. Phillips
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources
Section
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

cc: Jennifer Byrne, U.S. EPA
Cami Grandinetti, U.S. EPA